

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application. Claims 1,8-10, 15-17, 21-28, 30-36, and 38 have been rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chawla et al., US Patent 5,726,603 (hereinafter "Chawla"). Claims 1,6, 10, 13, 14, 17, 23, 30, 36, 39, and 40 have been rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dupuis et al., US Patent 6,727,754 (hereinafter "Dupuis"). Claims 2-5, 7, 11, 12, 18-20, 29, and 37 are allowable.

Allowable claim 2 has been rewritten as amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable. Since claims 3 and 4 depend from amended claim 1, it is also believed that these claims are allowable.

Allowable claim 11 has been rewritten as amended claim 10. Amended claim 10 is therefore believed to be allowable. Since claim 12 depends from amended claim 10, it is also believed that this claim is allowable.

Allowable claim 18 has been rewritten as amended claim 17. Amended claim 17 is therefore believed to be allowable.

Allowable claim 29 has been rewritten as amended claim 23. Amended claim 23 is therefore believed to be allowable.

Allowable claim 37 has been rewritten as amended claim 36. Amended claim 36 is therefore believed to be allowable.

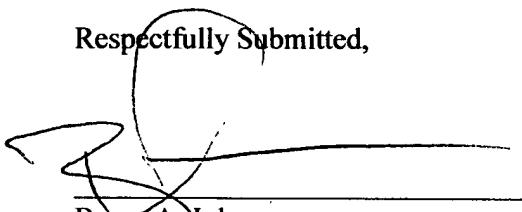
Allowable claim 5 has been rewritten as new claim 41. New claim 41 is therefore believed to be allowable. Since claims 42 and 43 depend from new claim 41, it is also believed that these claims are allowable.

Allowable claim 19 has been rewritten as new claim 44. New claim 44 is therefore believed to be allowable. Since claim 45 depends from new claim 44, it is also believed that this claim is allowable.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are patentable over the prior art. It is further more respectfully submitted that all other matters have been addressed and remedied and that the application is in form for allowance. Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Bruce A. Johnson, Applicants' Attorney at 512-301-9900 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,


8-5-05
Date

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